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US Department of State
Bureau of Intelligence and Research
Intelligence Assessment
01/03/2002

I2
RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

(C) Venezuela: Concern Within the Revolution

[REDACTED]

B1

(C) [REDACTED] Chavez has sought to regain "revolutionary" momentum by adopting a harsher public tone and embarking upon a rash of contentious initiatives. These measures include decreeing 49 controversial laws; resurrecting the MBR-200, the organization behind his 1992 coup attempt; and creating "Bolivarian circles," an effort to build grassroots support. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(C) A house divided...

[REDACTED]

B1

(C) Although they share Chavez's distrust of the traditional political parties and continue at least generally to support his agenda, the moderates do not approve of the president's aggressive rhetoric, his intransigent approach to the opposition, or his anti-US stance. Moreover, Chavez recently removed from their positions two moderate MVR leaders who refused orders to abandon National Assembly-led discussions with the opposition over the decree laws that had sparked a successful nationwide work stoppage in December.

(C) ...frustrated...

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UNCLASSIFIED

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(C) ...and uncertain

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Reason for Classification: 1.5 (d)

Declassify on: 1.6X1

Derived from: multiple sources